



Canyon Creek Complex Evening Update Thursday, September 3, 2015

Fire Information: (541) 820-3643 or (541) 820-3633
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Facebook: www.facebook.com/canyoncreekfireoregon and/or
www.facebook.com/malheurnationalforest
Malheur NF www.fs.usda.gov/malheur/
Inciweb: http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4495/
Twitter: @MalheurNF

JOHN DAY, OR – Fire crews continued to work on the eastern perimeter of fire within the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness where fire spotted across the 1640 road (a.k.a. Roads End) and into the Strawberry Lake and Slide Creek areas. Aerial suppression moderated fire activity in the spots located near Slide Creek. Firefighters took direct attack action on the four spots near Indian Springs Camp today. Multiple aircraft made multiple retardant and water drops throughout the day. This moderated the spread and created a buffer of retardant limiting southern spread.

Crews began scouting and constructing contingency lines east toward old burn areas from the 1640 Road to the 1648. Firefighters continued constructing direct line south from the wilderness boundary along the fire perimeter in the northeast portion of the fire toward Strawberry Mountain attempting to secure that line.

Burnout operations in Dean Creek and Diesel Creek were completed today. Yesterday an aerial Plastic Sphere Dispenser (PSD) was used to ignite ground fuels in areas too steep to place firefighters was used to good advantage. This operation successfully brought surface fire slowly down to the control lines, minimizing damage to the trees. Ping pong-like balls containing a potassium permanganate mixture are injected with ethylene glycol then dropped from a helicopter. The balls ignite after landing on the forest floor. These lines will be patrolled and strengthened through the night in order to secure the perimeter.

Resources are in place near the fire's north and northeastern flank in the Pine and Indian Creek areas. Nightshift resources will continue to patrol that area. Crews continued to secure, mop up and repair hand and dozer lines from John Day west and south to Parrish Cabin.

A cold front moved through the area bringing light rain to most of the fire last night with the north receiving up to .2 inch. This also raised the relative humidity and lowered temperatures.

A community meeting was held at 5:30 pm at the Prairie City Grange. An Incident Management Team transfer of command will take place on Sunday morning from Lund's Type 1 Incident Management Team to Goff's Type 2 Incident Management Team.

All evacuation levels remain the same with Prairie City at Level 1 and the Strawberry, Dog, Pine and Indian Creek areas at Level 2. Level 2 areas are open to residents and fire traffic only.

Additional Information

There is a Forest Closure in effect for the fire area and Strawberry Mountain Wilderness. Copies of the closure orders and associated maps are available at www.fs.usda.gov/detail/malheur/home/?cid=stelprd3845529.

Public Safety Alert: Please be aware of fire traffic and smoky conditions while driving. Forest officials ask that the public stay clear of all fire-related activities.

School is back in session throughout the area. Watch for children walking to school or waiting for school buses.

CR 62 and the 16 Road are open to through traffic. Highway 395 is open to traffic, however, firefighters, equipment and the power company are working along the side of the road and drivers should expect short delays. Drivers are urged to use caution and encouraged to drive with headlights on through these areas. For safety reasons do not stop along the road or enter into burned areas.

Additional area fire information can be found at JDIDC - BICC (John Day Interagency Dispatch Center - Burns Interagency Communication Center) sites online at <http://bicc-jdidc.org/index.shtml>.

Fire activity will likely have an effect on hunting this season. For more information, visit www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/

For the latest Malheur National Forest news, please visit www.fs.usda.gov/malheur or follow the Forest on Facebook at U.S. Forest Service-Malheur National Forest or on Twitter at [@MalheurNF](https://twitter.com/MalheurNF).

For American Red Cross services, please call 941-620-8454.

Reporting

To report a fire, contact the John Day Interagency Dispatch Center at (541) 575-1321 or the Burns Interagency Communication Center at (541) 573-1000.

